



U.S. Department of Justice

**Terrence Berg
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

***Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277***

**For Immediate Release:
Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758**

April 22, 2009

Event: Sentenced

Defendant: Raymond Yono

**ROYAL OAK MAN SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT FOR BANK
FRAUD**

Defendant Used Altered Social Security Checks To Steal More Than \$58,000

A Royal Oak man who inflated his social security disability checks by thousands of dollars and defrauded four banks of the money was sentenced to two years imprisonment in federal court, United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced today. Berg was joined in the announcement by William Callahan, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Secret Service's Detroit field office.

Raymond Yono, 38, formerly of West Bloomfield and Oak Park, was convicted on four counts of bank fraud and one count of altering United States Treasury instruments following a week-long jury trial on June 27, 2008.

Since 1995, Yono had received Social Security disability benefit checks for several hundred dollars each. From September 2005 to March 2006, Yono and co-defendant Rosie

Mary Guthrie altered the checks by adding an "8" to the dollar amount payable, thereby transforming, in several instances, checks for \$311 to ones for \$8,311. Yono then deposited the altered checks at accounts he held at Charter One Bank, People's Trust Credit Union, Republic Bank, and Citizens Bank. He depleted the funds before the banks discovered the alterations, leaving the banks with losses totaling \$58,012.21, for which Yono was ordered to pay restitution.

At trial, the Secret Service case agent testified that the proceeds of the fraud were likely gambled by the defendant at the Motor City Casino, where Yono spent more than 300 hours playing the slots since September 2005 and was issued W-2s for nearly \$100,000 in earnings.

On February 3, 2009, co-defendant Guthrie was sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

The case was tried by Assistant United States Attorneys Leonid Feller and Barrington Wilkins.